

Rural and Low-Income Schools Program for 2015-2016

Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2

The Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) Program is designed to assist rural school districts in using Federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement. This technical assistance document is intended to provide an overview and should be used in conjunction with the U.S. Education Department (USED) policy guidance that may be found on the USED Web site.

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/reaprlisp/legislation.html>

For general programmatic questions about RLIS, contact Vicki Fosbender at (502) 564-3791 vicki.fosbender@education.ky.gov, Monica Shack at (502) 564-3791 Monica.Shack@education.ky.gov, or Judy Littleton at (502) 564-3791 judith.littleton@education.ky.gov. For budget questions, contact Vickie Terry at (502) 564-1979. For specific questions about activities in other programs where RLIS funds may be used, contact the program contact listed on page 2.

To be eligible to participate in RLIS Program, **all** of the following must apply to the district:

1. Twenty percent (20%) or more of the children ages five to seventeen served by the district are from families with incomes below the poverty line as determined by the USED based on census data;
2. All public schools in the district have a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8, as assigned by the USED's National Center for Education Statistics; and
3. The district is not eligible to participate in the Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) Program.

The Rural and Low-Income School Program funds may be used for any of the following:

- Teacher recruitment and retention;
- Professional development;
- Parent involvement activities;
- Activities authorized under Title I, Part A;
- Activities authorized under Title III, Part A

The RLIS funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other federal, state, or local education funds. The SY 2015-2016 MUNIS project # for RLIS is 350B, and the CFDA # is 84.358B. The equitable participation requirements in Part E of Title IX of NCLB do not apply to funds allocated under the RLIS grant program.

Use of Funds: The district has flexibility in the use of RLIS funds. However, for districts with identified Priority and/or Focus Schools funds must be used to address gaps based on the school's needs assessment.

Activities in Other Programs for RLIS Funds

Following are description of programs for which the Rural and Low-Income School Program funds may be used. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) contact information follows each program description.

Title I, Part A – Improving the Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged Children

Districts will first use funds to address needs in identified Focus or Priority School(s) or at the district level if the district has been identified as a Focus or Priority District. Districts may use RLIS funds for the following purposes:

- Parent involvement;
- Professional development;
- School extension programs (i.e., before school, after school, summer school and intersession); and/or
- Preschool programs

Contact Christina Benassi, Ashlie Cox, Dan Davison, Vicki Fosbender, Helen Jones, Judy Littleton, Monica Shack, or David Wickersham for more specific details about Title I, Part A – (502)564-3791.

Title III – Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students

Districts may use RLIS funds for the following purposes:

- To develop and implement new language instructional programs and academic content instruction programs;
- To carry out highly focused, innovative, locally designed activities to expand or enhance existing language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction programs;
- To implement school-wide or district-wide program restructuring, reforming, and upgrading all relevant programs, activities, and operations relating to language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction.

Title III must be used to:

- Increase the English language proficiency of students by providing high-quality language instruction programs based on scientifically based research;
- Provide high-quality professional development to classroom teachers, principals, administrators, and other school or community based organizations consistent with Kentucky's Professional Development Standards, requirements under NCLB and Section 3115(c).

Additional activities for Title III may include:

- Upgrading program objectives and effective instruction;

- Improving the instruction programs by identifying, acquiring and upgrading curricula, instruction materials, educational software, and assessment procedures;
- Providing tutorials and academic or vocational education and intensified instruction;
- Developing and implementing elementary school or secondary school language instruction educational programs coordinated with other programs;
- Improving the English language proficiency and academic achievement of the children; and
- Providing community programs, family literacy services, and parent outreach and training activities.

Contact Gary Martin for more specific details about Title III – (502)564-4970.

Allocation Process

The following information explains how KDE calculates the allocation for the Rural and LowIncome Schools Program (Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2):

- States receive the district eligibility worksheet from the USED and provide the USED with average daily attendance (ADA) data for all districts.
- The USED allocates RLIS funds to states by formula. The amount of funding a state receives is based on its proportionate share of children in ADA in all districts eligible to participate in the RLIS program. The state receives grant award notification with the state allocation from the USED.
- States decide how to allocate funds to eligible districts. KDE uses a per-pupil amount times ADA for each eligible district.
- Districts are notified of award with award notifications sent to the district superintendent, financial officer, and RLIS coordinator.